

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A ceramic sintered body comprising ceramic coarse particles and bonding layers existing between the ceramic coarse particles to connect the particles and including ceramic fine particles having a mean particle size smaller than that of the ceramic coarse particles.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic coarse particles are single-crystal.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein the bonding layer is formed with ceramic fine particles having an average particle size smaller than the ceramic coarse particles, and/or a sintered body of aggregates thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the bonding layer is a brittle body having strength lower than that of the ceramic coarse particles.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 3, wherein the bonding layer is a polycrystalline body comprising a plurality of ceramic fine particles.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 5, wherein the ceramic fine particles are formed by sintering with the grain boundary remained.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the bonding layer contains at least one sintering aid selected from iron, aluminium, nickel, titanium, chromium and oxide.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 7, wherein a content of the sintering aid is higher than that contained in the ceramic coarse particles.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the ceramic coarse particles and the bonding layers are formed by silicon carbide.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1 or 3, wherein a ratio of an average particle size of the ceramic coarse particle to the ceramic fine particles is ~~15:1 ~ 1 : 200~~ 15:1 ~ 200:1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1 or 3, wherein a ratio of total weight of the ceramic coarse particles to the ceramic fine particles is ~~1:1 ~ 1 : 9~~ 1:1 ~ 9:1.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic sintered body is porous.

Claim 13 (Original): A ceramic filter with a honeycomb structure comprising a pillar-shaped porous ceramic member or a combination of a plurality of the pillar-shaped porous ceramic members in which a plurality of cells as a gas passageway are arranged side by side in a longitudinal direction through cell walls and either one end portions of these cells are plugged, wherein the filter itself is formed by a ceramic sintered body comprising ceramic coarse particles and a bonding layer existing between the ceramic coarse particles to connect the particles and including ceramic fine particles having an average particle size smaller than that of the ceramic coarse particles.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic coarse particles are single-crystal.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the bonding layer is formed by ceramic fine particles having an average particle size smaller than that of the ceramic coarse particles, and/or a sintering body of aggregates thereof.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 13 or 15, wherein the bonding layer is brittle body having a strength lower than the ceramic coarse particles.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 15, wherein the bonding layer is a polycrystalline body comprising a plurality of ceramic fine particles.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 17, wherein the ceramic fine particles are formed by sintering with the grain boundary remained.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 13 ~~or 15~~, wherein the bonding layer contains at least one sintering aid selected from iron, aluminium, nickel, titanium, chromium, and oxide.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 19, wherein the content of the sintering aid is higher than that contained in the ceramic coarse particles.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 13 ~~or 15~~, wherein the ceramic coarse particles and the bonding layer are formed by silicon carbide.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 13 ~~or 15~~, wherein a ratio of an average particle size of the ceramic coarse particles to the ceramic fine particles is ~~15:1 ~ 1 : 200~~ 15:1 ~ 200:1.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 13 ~~or 15~~, wherein a ratio of total weight of the ceramic coarse particles to the ceramic fine particles is ~~1:1 ~ 1 : 9~~ 1:1 ~ 9:1.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic sintered body is porous.